

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 7, 1977

Governor Jimmy Carter
President-elect
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Governor Carter:

We are very concerned with the recent politicization of the analysis process which produces the National Intelligence Estimates and with the leak for apparent political purposes of some classified estimates developed regarding the goals of the Soviet Union.

The participants on the outside panel unfortunately included several persons who had already developed conclusions on the matter and who are actively engaged in lobbying efforts to shape policy to meet their conclusions. The final position of the panel and the opinions in the estimate should come as no surprise.

One almost expected result of this "pollution" of the process was the leak and the resulting pressure to be exerted on future executive and legislative decisions concerning the entire spectrum of national security affairs. This could have an apparently intended but disastrous effect on the shape of the defense budget and on arms limitations talks.

The development of objective intelligence estimates is of paramount importance to this country. Personal political or ideological stances have no place in the process. We deplore their intrusion.

We urge that the process remain pristine and uncontaminated. We urge that outside participation be only analytical and we strongly request an investigation on the leak. Most importantly, we ask that the estimate be redone and the obvious bias corrected.

Sincerely,

Ronald V. Dellums

Berkly Bedell

John Burton

William Clay

John Conyers

Don Edwards

Jim Johnson

Michael Harrington

Robert Kastenmeier

Robert Leggett

Parren Mitchell

Richard Ottinger

Henry Reuss

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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Remarks:

Executive Secretary

Date